

REMARKS

By the *Final Office Action* of 13 January 2006, Claims 2, 3, and 5-13 are pending in the Application; Claims 5-8 have been objected to; and Claims 2, 3 and 9-13 have been rejected. Applicant files the present *Response and Amendment to Final Office Action* in an effort to move the case to issuance.

No new matter is believed introduced by the present *Response and Amendment to Final Office Action*. It is respectfully submitted that the present Application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

1. The Claims

Claims 2, 3, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,705,128 to Krude in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,418,744 to Ballamy et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,092,511 to Middlebrook. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krude in view of Ballamy et al. and Middlebrook, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,669,559 to Fukui. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krude in view of Ballamy et al. and Middlebrook, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,952,824 to Marschinsky. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krude in view of Ballamy et al. and Middlebrook, and further in view of Fukui.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 5-8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended Claims 5 and 8, such that Claims 5 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base Claim 13. Further, Applicant has cancelled Claim 13, amended Claims 2-3, 7, 9, and 12, and introduced new dependent Claims 14-21. As amended, dependent Claims 2-3, 6-7, and 9-12 ultimately depend from independent Claim 5 and dependent Claims 14-21 ultimately depend from independent Claim 8. Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

As Claims 5 and 8 have been amended to include all of the limitations of base Claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 5 and 8 are in a condition for allowance. Further, all other dependent claims ultimately depend from either independent Claim 5 or 8 and,

therefore, are believed allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections and rejections have been overcome.

2. Fees

This *Response and Amendment to Final Office Action* is being filed within six months of the *Final Office Action*, and more specifically within two months, thus no extension of time fee is believed due.

The number of pending Claims includes less than three independent Claims and less than twenty total Claims, thus no Claim fees are believed due.

Nonetheless, should any fees be due, authorization to charge deposit account No. 20-1507 is hereby expressly given.

CONCLUSION

By the present *Response and Amendment to Final Office Action*, the Application is believed to be in form for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at 404.885.3538.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patricia A. Mashburn

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or
Registered Representative

Patricia A. Mashburn

Signature

13 March 2006

Date



James A. Proffitt

Registration No. 54,837

Troutman Sanders LLP
Bank of America Plaza
600 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 5200
Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216
United States
Phone: 404.885.3538
Fax: 404.962.6769